

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 02133 151024Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----021896 151026Z /17
O 150953Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1271
INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 2133

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (BEGIN, MENACHEM), IS, US, MASS, EG, SA
SUBJECT: BEGIN VISIT AND BEGIN RESPONSE TO AIRCRAFT SALES DECISIONS

REF: A) STATE 39493, B) TEL AVIV 2109

1. CONVEYED INFORMATION IN REF A THROUGH EVRON TO
BEGIN MORNING OF FEBRUARY 15.
2. BEGIN TELEPHONED ME LATER IN MORNING TO SAY HE UNDER-
STOOD PROBLEM, AND WOULD LIMIT HIS COMMENTS IN KNESSET TO
STATEMENT THAT HE WILL BE VISITING WASHINGTON AT THE
PRESIDENT'S INVITATION NEXT MONTH, WITH PRECISE DATES
STILL TO BE WORKED OUT.
3. WHILE YOU ARE EXPLORING OTHER POSSIBLE DATES, BEGIN
WANTED ME TO OFFER SUGGESTION THAT, FOLLOWING SAME
SCHEDULING, WEEK LATER WOULD SEEM SENSIBLE TO HIM; THAT
WOULD HAVE HIM ARRIVING IN WASHINGTON MARCH 12 WITH
TALKS TO BEGIN MARCH 13. THIS WOULD ALSO MESH WELL WITH
WEIZMAN'S VISIT WHICH COULD GO AHEAD ON SCHEDULE.
4. BEGIN ALSO WANTED ME TO KNOW THAT HE AND HIS CABINET
COLLEAGUES HAD STUDIED CAREFULLY THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

SECRET

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PAGE 02 TEL AV 02133 151024Z

AND THE TALKING POINTS CONCERNING THE AIRCRAFT SALES
DECISIONS WHICH I PROVIDED HIM YESTERDAY MORNING. HE
SAID HE CONTINUED TO BE VERY DISTURBED BY THESE DECISIONS
AND WOULD BE SAYING SO IN HIS SPEECH AT THE KNESSET
TODAY. HE WANTED US TO KNOW THAT HE WOULD BE ASKING
PUBLICLY IN THAT SPEECH FOR "RECONSIDERATION" BY THE
PRESIDENT OF THE DECISIONS HE HAS ANNOUNCED. I URGED

HIM TO KEEP HIS SPEECH AS MODERATE AND FACTUAL AS
POSSIBLE. HE RESPONDED CALMLY THAT HE ALWAYS TRIED
TO BE MODERATE IN HIS SPEECHES, BUT OFTEN HIS EFFORTS AT
MODERATION WERE INTERPRETED PUBLICLY BY OTHERS
AS "INTRANSIGENCE."
LEWIS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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